

Serial No. 09/864,809
60137-026**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~mix head assembly of a molding system comprising:~~
a mix head comprising ~~an inlet to a mixer section and an outlet from said mixer section;~~
an input port to a passage;
a plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves in communication with said passage
to selectively suppress a flow of fluid through said passage, said plurality of adjacent
sequentially activatable valves each axially movable along a longitudinal axis
transverse to said passage; and
an output port from said passage in communication with said ~~inlet to said~~ mix head.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly system as recited in claim 1, further including
a controller to sequentially activate said plurality of sequentially activatable valves to meter an
initial flow of the fluid.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly system as recited in claim 2, wherein said
controller activates each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves in response to a
predetermined pressure.
4. (CANCELLED).
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of
said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves include a spring bias toward an open
position.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 1, further including
a pneumatic actuator to selectively activate each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially
activatable valves in a sequential manner.

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves ~~define a~~ defined along said longitudinal axis, each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves providing an opening transverse to the longitudinal axis and alignable with said passage.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves includes a first valve, a second valve and a third valve, each of said valves ~~defining a~~ defined along said longitudinal axis substantially transverse to said passage.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 8, wherein said first valve is adjacent said input port.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 8, wherein said first valve includes a first opening, said second valve includes a second opening, and said third valve includes a third opening.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 10, wherein said second opening sized to be larger than said first opening and said third opening sized to be larger than said second opening.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of sequentially activatable valves provide an open position wherein said first opening is aligned with said passage and said second opening and said third opening are partially aligned with said passage.
13. (CANCELLED)
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of sequentially activatable valves provide an open position wherein said first opening is

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aligned with said passage, said second opening is aligned with said passage and said third opening is partially aligned with said passage.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of sequentially activatable valves provide an open position wherein said first opening, second opening and said third opening are aligned with said passage.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A molding system comprising:
a mix head;
an input port to a passage, said input port communicating with a feed assembly;
a plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves each defining a longitudinal axis, each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves include an opening transverse to the longitudinal axis and alignable with said passage to selectively suppress a flow of fluid through said passage;
a bias adjacent each of said plurality of sequentially activatable valves to bias said valve toward an open position;
an actuator to selectively activate each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves; and
an output port from said passage, said output port in communication with said mix head assembly.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 17, further including a controller to sequentially activate said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves to meter an initial flow of the fluid.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said controller activates each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves in response to a predetermined pressure.

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20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves includes a first valve, a second valve and a third valve, said first valve adjacent said output port.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 20, wherein said first valve includes a first opening, said second valve includes a second opening, and said third valve includes a third opening.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said second opening sized to be larger than said first opening and said third aperture sized to be larger than said second opening.

23-25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly system as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves are located within a valve housing mounted adjacent said mix head.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a plurality of said valve housings mounted about a circumference of said mix head, each of said plurality of said valve housings communicating a fluid material into said mix head assembly.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves are located within a valve housing mounted adjacent said mix head assembly.

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29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 28, further comprising a plurality of said valve housings mounted about a circumference of said mix head assembly, each of said valve assemblies communicating a fluid material to said mix section.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~assembly system~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves intersect said passage in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves intersect said passage in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A molding system comprising:
a mix head assembly having an outlet;
an input port to a passage defined within a valve housing, said passage generally transverse to said outlet;
a plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves within said valve housing, each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves defining a longitudinal axis transverse to said passage and an opening alignable with said passage;
a bias adjacent each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves to bias said valve toward an open position in which each of said openings are in alignment with said passage;
an actuator to selectively activate each of said plurality of sequentially activatable valves;
an output port from said passage, said output port in communication with said mix head assembly; and
a controller in communication with said actuator to sequentially activate said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves to meter an initial flow of a fluid material to selectively suppress a flow of fluid material through said passage and into said mix head assembly.

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33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein said plurality of sequentially activatable valves includes a first valve, a second valve and a third valve, said first valve includes a first opening, said second valve includes a second opening, and said third valve includes a third opening, said second opening sized to be larger than said first opening and said third opening sized to be larger than said second opening.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein said valve housing is mounted to said mix head assembly.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 32, further comprising a plurality of said valve housings mounted about a circumference of said mix head, each of said valve housing communicating a distinct fluid material to said mix head assembly.

36. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves are movable along said longitudinal axis in response to a spring bias.

37. (NEW) The system as recited in claim 36, further including a pneumatic actuator to overcome said spring bias to selectively maintain each of said plurality of adjacent sequentially activatable valves in a closed position.